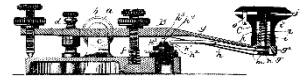




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2016, No. 10

October 2016



Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, making a presentation on Decibels at the SARC meeting on September 8, 2016



Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, President, SARC, presenting Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, a Program Certificate of Achievement for his excellent presentation

Measuring Resistance

Our next club meeting will be at 7:00 p. m. (1900) on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at Grady's Barbeque, 327 E. Nakoma Dr., San Antonio, TX 78216. The program will be a presentation on Measuring Resistance and its Importance in Amateur Radio by Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW. Come early and join us for supper.

Decibels

At the 7:00 p. m. on Thursday, August 11, 2016, at Grady's Barbeque, the program was on Decibels. Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, was the presenter for this program.

Bob, K5AUW, defined a decibel (db) as a logarithmic unit used to express the ratio of two values. In amateur radio, decibels are most often used with respect to audio power where 1 db is the smallest change an average human ear can detect. Decibels are also used to express the forward gain of an antenna compared to a hypothetical isotropic antenna. It is also used to express the loss in radio systems from a transceiver to an antenna over the transmission facility between the transceiver and antenna. Last month's presentation on reducing loss on VHF and HF transmission lines was all about reducing the decibel loss on the transmission line. The viewgraphs used in this presentation are shown beginning on page 5 of this newsletter.

Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, President, presented Greg, N5XO, with a Program Certificate of Achievement after his presentation.

Richard Elder, WB5ACN, made a short presentation on Chinese antennas for Baofeng radios as an Announcement for the Good of the Amateur Radio Service. He had done some work on antennas with antenna analyzers. One whip antenna was not resonant on VHF an UHF so he cut it apart and found it was never engineered to be resonant. (See the article on Baofeng accessories staring on Page 8 of this newsletter.)

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
10	R		AE5AS		San Antonio, TX		Oct.

TO
W5SC

I did not realize all the activity in October 2016 that the San Antonio Radio Club had going on until I started working with the Editor of the **Bexar Wire** newsletter on this month's issue. We have the usual monthly meeting with a program followed by the formal business meeting. My thanks to Rodney Brown, AA5RB, for working through the late change to the Measuring Resistance program by Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW. However, we also have Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) for Scouts at the Texas Transportation Museum and Amateur Radio License Testing by our Volunteer Examiners at the Great Northwest Library this month, which are major undertakings. Beyond that the Radio Fiesta 2017 Committee has a critical month of activities involving finalizing the program, writing the flyer, updating the website w5sc.org, getting mailing labels, following up with dealers, and following up with invited groups.

Pretty busy.

But the San Antonio Radio Club is not done yet. This is the month that under the leadership of Joe Bruno, W5AUO, Chairperson, Field Day Committee, that we move our equipment from its current location to a cheaper venue. We have to have this done by October 31, 2016. We have several volunteers lined up to help already, but Joe, W5AUO, will take all that he can get. The Editor can get you in touch with Joe, W5AUO. Just ask.

Please read all of the **Bexar Wire** as pointed out above there is a lot of good things going on in your San Antonio Radio Club.



AE5AS

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:
San Antonio Radio Club

Harold C. Fleischer, III AE5AS
President

Harold C. Fleischer, III AE5AS
Editor
210-497-2532
haroldcf@swbell.net

The due date for articles is the Friday before the first Monday of the month.

Call to Order at 7:06

Introductions by those present

The following business was done out of order while the presenter completed setting up:

Officer Reports:

Vice President – Future Program: Rodney Brown, AA5RB reported that the program in October 2016 will be on Emergency Preparedness by J C Smith, N5RXS.

Announcement

Richard Elder, WB5ACN, announcement cautioning on Chinese antennas for Baofeng Hand Transceivers (HT). He showed two different antennas that he had put on antenna analyzers at home. The whip antenna was not resonant on VHF and UHF frequencies. The antenna with a magnet for use on automobiles was resonant. He showed the piece parts of the whip antenna broken down. Moral of the story: be careful of antennas that you buy from China. Some are good, some are not.

Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, then turned the meeting to Rodney Brown, AA5RB, Vice President, who introduced the program. The program was presented by Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, was about Decibels. Rodney Brown, AA5RB, thanked Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, and turned the meeting back over to Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, who immediately presented Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, with a Program Certificate of Appreciation.

Agenda Reviewed

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting – Approved as published in the September 2016 newsletter.

Officer Reports:

President

The tower, antennas, etc. formerly at Kcomm have been sold to a SARC member for \$1,300.

Appointments

Nominating Committee, which per the Const & By-Laws has to be appointed by Sep 1:

Lew Archer, W0YVY, Chairperson

J C Smith, N5RXS, Member

Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, Member

Need a Newsletter Editor

Bruce Weatherby is the sponsor of the SARC Facebook page. He has made the Newsletter Editor an admin on the page. The Newsletter Editor has refreshed the SARC Facebook page.

Also working problems with yahoo site.

A word on nominations: I sat in the back row for 10 years. When called and asked to be President, I laughed. The reality in a small organization with 9 elected positions, 1 officer position by Const & By-Laws, 2 appointed positions, and 9 Committee Chairpersons or a need for 21 leaders is that everyone needs to take a turn to keep the San Antonio Radio Club going. That is why I agreed to run for President last year. That is why you need to think about serving when called this year.

Secretary – Correspondence and Progress on assembling Key Official Documents – no change

Treasurer – Financial and Budget including Field Day costs. Report passed out and discussed, but not much in the way of activity until Radio Fiesta.

Newsletter Editor - September 2016 newsletter was sent out by Rowena Archer on Sept. 5, 2016.

Webmaster – David Espinoza has posted the vendor information for Radio Fiesta 2017 to the website. Other Radio Fiesta changes are pending.

Priority to posting meeting announcement and newsletter.

Chairman of the Board Report –Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, announced that the Board will meet immediately after this meeting to discuss governance documents, shelving for storage, and Field Day 2016 lessons learned.

Committee Reports

Education and Training – Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, reported the General Course was held in August as planned. At the end, the VEs administered license tests. An Extra Class is planned for early next year.

Emergency Communications –JC Smith, N5RXS, reported on an exercise involving ARES, MARS, and other groups planned for October 2016. Exercise Sep 24 with Mars. Cert course starting Sep 28. Course 317 at SA fire academy. Oct 5 CERTS exercise.

Executive – No meetings since last month.

Field Day - Joe Bruno, W5AUQ, reported that the lease for storage space is being written and should be signed soon. We will make the move before the end of October 2016. Delayed. We have copy of contract. Still to check insurance. \$25 rent starting 1st of year.

Finance and Review – Inactive until next January.

JOTA – Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, announced JOTA will be held at the Texas Transportation Museum this year and he is already started coordination with the Boy Scouts. On Oct 15, Sat. Need more help. Described what would be happening and some of the neat experiences from past. Trail will be operating.

Membership – Tom O'Brien reported the number of 2016 members is: 100. Unchanged.

He has started working up a different procedure from the one he was working on to obtain each month's new ham list.

Nominating – Lew Archer, W0YVY, reported that they have a slate of four one-year elected officers and one five-year Director to present by next month. He encouraged everyone interested in serving to contact J C Smith, N5RXS, Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW, or himself. Sales pitch to volunteer.

Radio Fiesta – The Chairperson has sent out 31 letters to dealers, 10 letters to special invitees like the Texas VHF Society, and one letter to a presenter this month. Some special invitee answers have already been received. Already 1 response.

The generic vendor letter and application has been updated for 2017 was one of the updates done by the Webmaster the website.

A draft of the flyer to be mailed in November 2016 has been done. It is dependent on the program coordinator finishing his part and the VEC confirming Schertz Library, which they cannot do until November 1, 2107. I have done some research into 3-digit zip code areas in South Texas as a means of focusing the address list that we get from ARRL in November 2016.

The Radio Fiesta 2017 Chairperson will be getting a headset for his Baofeng radio and wearing it so he can be reached during Radio Fiesta. Others helping are encouraged to do the same.

I am personally pleased with how J C Smith, N5RXS, has taken ownership of the Program as Program Coordinator and with how Pat Knight, AD5BR, has taken ownership of the VE testing as the VE Coordinator.

VEC – There was a test session at the Great Northwest Library on August 27, 2016. There were nine people taking tests. The next regularly scheduled session is 10:00 a. m. on October 22, 2016 at the Great Northwest Library.

A special test session was held that afternoon on August 27, 2016 for the General Course.

Centennial Commemoration (Temporary) - Tom O'Brien, AB5XZ, reported that ideas have trickled item in, but no real change although he has looked at using the pavilion in Alamo Plaza to activate a special event station. The City controls it and charges \$100 for 3 hours, but because of the archeological digging going on, it is closed right now.

Possible meeting after next monthly meeting.

Baofeng UHF Radio (Temporary) – Richard Elder, WB5ACN, has two radios left for interested parties. See him after the meeting if you are an interested party. This temporary committee has fulfilled its purpose and is disbanded tonight.

CW Training (Temporary) – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ, asked interested individuals to let him know who they are and asked for input on how to proceed.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) - None



ARRL – AFFILIATED EVENT

Radio Fiesta 2017

The San Antonio Radio Club's Amateur Radio Fiesta 2017 is approaching even faster. It is now only a little over 3 months away on January 14, 2017.

The Chairperson has established this as an ARRL – Affiliated Event, ARRL shipped us a bunch of flyers for Radio Fiesta that we got late last month. By this time next month, we will have put in our request for a mailing list from ARRL for the flyers to be mailed out in November 2017, which is next month.

In response to the dealer mailing reported last month, we have received two commitments from two dealers. The very first deal was Rocco Enterprises. The second was The Sign Man. It is a beginning. Telephonic follow-up with all other dealers will be made before the end of October 2016.

When it comes to invitations, we have three responses. The Texas VHF-FM Society and Texas Army MARS groups have both responded that they are coming. Ed Cox, KE3D, has responded that he is coming. Ed, KE3D, is the DX Card Checker for ARRL's West Gulf Division. He will be manning the DX CC table from 9:00 a. m. until 2:00 p. m. at Radio Fiesta. Telephonic follow-up with all of the invitees will be made before the end of October 2016.

The Program Coordinator, J C Smith, N5RXS, still expects to confirm all program details by mid-October 2016 when the flyer to be mailed needs to be finalized.

We are nominally where we should be at this point. It would be good to make more progress on dealers and invitees before we start having to deal with flea tables and pre-register general admission, but it is expected that all activities will overlap as we get into November and December.

A reminder: Your Radio Fiesta 2017 Committee is:

Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, Chairperson
Pat Knight, AD5BR, VE Coordinator
Bob Rodrigues, K5AUS, Tailgate Coordinator
J C Smith, N5RXS, Program Coordinator



Richard Elder, WB5ACN, explaining his work with antenna analyzers on antennas for the Baofeng BF-666S 16 Channel UHF 400-470 MHz Hand Transceiver at SARC Meeting on September 8, 2016

Baofeng BF-666S Hand Transceiver Can Have Antenna Issues

Previously, Richard Elder, WB5ACN, distributed the Baofeng BF-666S UHF Radio at recent San Antonio Radio Club meetings. At the July 14, 2016 meeting, he talked about accessories including antennas. He has since done some work on these antennas using an antenna analyzer. His intent was to determine how good the resonance of each antenna was for the amateur radio VHF and UHF bands.

He looked at the Nagoya NA-771 15.6-Inch Whip VHF/UHF (144/430Mhz) Antenna first.



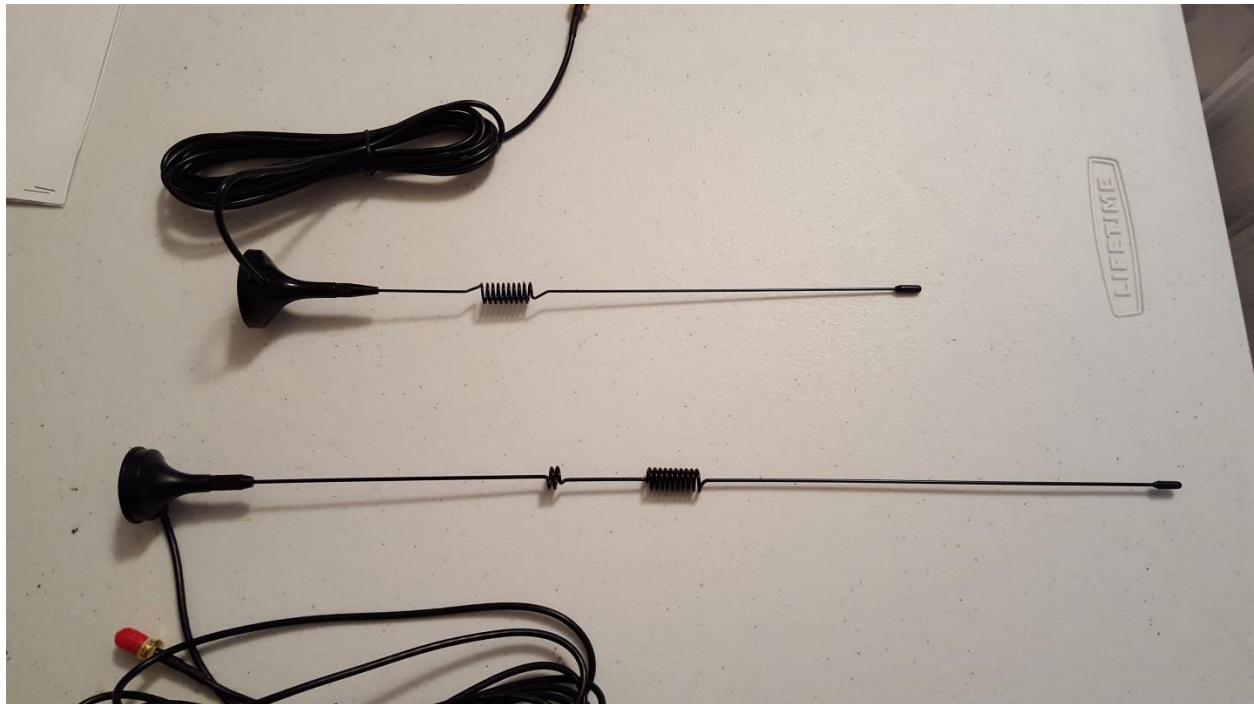
These are Nagoya NA-771 15.6-Inch Whip VHF/UHF (144/430Mhz) Antenna where the top one is in its package, the center one is out of its package, and the bottom one has been cut open to look at its matching system, which did not exist thereby explaining its poor performance



Close-up view of the cut open Nagoya NA-771 15.6-Inch Whip VHF/UHF (144/430Mhz) Antenna

This antenna was found to **NOT** have performance in the desired bands and are simply about 14" of speedometer shaft. They did **NOT** have a matching system for dual band use.

Richard, WB5ACN, then looked at dual band mobile antennas with magnetic mounts for cars.



The top antenna does NOT have dual band performance, while the lower antenna DOES HAVE dual band performance

The result is an advisory to be very careful when buying an antenna for the Baofeng BF666S HT that is made in China.

A Comet Dual-Band HT SMA-24J Antenna can be used with the Baofeng BF666S HT. Alternately, a Comet Dual-Band HF SMA-24 along with a male to female SMA adapter can be used.

The following is a list of possible accessories from the August 2016 newsletter updated to show that one of the accessories, an antenna, is not recommended:

Baofeng Programming Cable for BAOFENG UV-5R/5RA/5R Plus/5RE, UV3R Plus, BF-888S



This cable is offered on Amazon for the Amazon Prime Price of \$7.66.

This cable with and without Baofeng programming software CD is offered on eBay for between \$4.99 and \$23.95 from US locations often with free shipping.

Baofeng BF-S112 Two Way Radio Speaker



This combination microphone and speaker is offered on Amazon for \$4.49 with free shipping.

This combination microphone and speaker is offered on eBay for between \$5.76 and \$10.99 offered with free shipping.

Tenq Earpiece Headset Mic for Baofeng Uv-5r 666s 777s 888s Two-way Radio



This is used for both listening and talking. It is offered on Amazon for the Amazon Prime Price of \$6.99.

The Baofeng version is offered on eBay for \$4.99 and up. The Tenq is on eBay for \$9.93. There are a number of multi-pack offers that drive the per unit cost down to around \$5.

Tenq® Baofeng 888s Li-ion Battery 1500mah for Baofeng 777s/888s/666s H777 Two Way Radio Walkie Talkie



This is offered on Amazon for the Amazon Prime Price of \$8.99. There are multi-pack offers that would drive the per unit cost down.

The Baofeng version is offered on eBay for \$4.69 and up. There are multi-pack offers that would drive the per unit cost down.



This is used for both listening and talking. It is offered on Amazon for the Amazon Prime Price of \$7.50.

The Baofeng version is offered on eBay for \$4.99 and up.

Authentic Genuine Nagoya NA-771 15.6-Inch Whip VHF/UHF (144/430Mhz) Antenna SMA-Female for AnyTone, BaoFeng, and Yaesu



NOT RECOMMENDED.

Baofeng UHF VHF Dual Band Magnetic Car Vehicle Mounted Antenna for BAOFENG UV5R Plus UV5RA Plus UV3R Plus



This antenna is on Amazon for \$5.78 and free shipping.

This is offered on eBay from \$6.98 and up with free shipping.

Next License Test on Saturday, October 22, 2016



Pat Knight, AD5BR, Chairperson, Volunteer Examination Committee, and a number of the members of that committee will be conducting amateur radio license examines on Saturday, October 22, 2016. The test session will start at 10:00 a. m. at the Great Northwest Library. This test session is open to the public although pre-registration is encouraged.

Amateur Radio Equipment Donation

SARC received the following items a couple of months ago with the prices shown being the estimated value with eBay being a prime source for the value:

Hammarlund HF+-6M Radio Receiver Model Number HQ-110 16.5" W x 9.5" H x 9.5"D	\$160
Speaker, 9" W x 9" H x 7.25" D, goes with Hammarlund Radio	\$50
Drake 2M Radio Transceiver TR22 SN 450681 % .25" W x 2.25" H X 7.25 D w/ Microphone on Coiled Cord	\$50
Hallicrafters Transmitter Model HT-40 SN 102117 13.25" W x 7.25" H x 8.5" D	\$100
Antenna, Steel Whip on Spring Mount Base 50" L PL-239	\$10
EICO In Circuit Capacitor Tester Model 955 SN 13007 .1-50 MFD 5.75" W x 9.5" H x 5.5" D	\$25
Micronta 43-Range Multitester 5.25" W x 6.5" H x 2.5" D in box w/ instructions w/ Black and Red Test Probes	\$25
Knight P-2 SWB/Power Meter with Connected Transmission Line Interface Box	\$25
Eico Grid Dip Meter Model 710 7.0 x 2.25" W x 2.25" H x 7" D w/ Box of Plug In Coils for Various Frequencies	\$35
Frequency Plugs, Various, 10 total	\$10
Straight Key mounted on heavy steel base with plug cord	\$25

The following are pictures of this equipment:



Hammarlund HQ-110



Hammarlund Speaker



Drake 2M TR22



Hallicrafters HT-40



Base of Whip Antenna



Eico Model 955



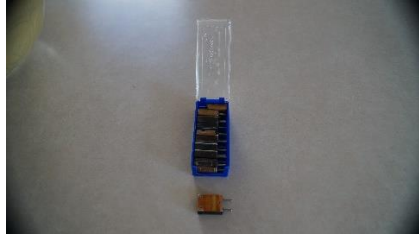
Micronta 43-Range Multitester



Knight P-2 SWB/Power Meter



Eico Grid Dip Meter Model 710



Frequency Plugs, 10 ea, Various



Straight Key on Heavy Base

There are some other pictures available and of course the original picture files with a lot more resolution. The newsletter editor can provide these pictures upon request.

SARC also has three other donated items of equipment that it is planned to add to future listings of donated equipment.

SARC has determined that as a club SARC cannot use any of this equipment. It is being offered to SARC members at this time **AS IS**. *It has not been tested so its condition is unknown.* While SARC officers have a duty to not give away equipment that has a value, they recognize that the estimated values shown are just that. At the same time, the donation was made to SARC to try to maximize the potential for the equipment to get used by another Ham. A member should make their offer to the President of SARC who is inclined to agree to any reasonable offer considering the buyer will be taking it **AS IS**. You can contact the President through the editor whose contact information is shown on page 2 of this newsletter.

Any donated amateur radio related equipment on hand by the time Radio Fiesta rolls around on January 14, 2017 will be offered for sale at Radio Fiesta.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

As Radio Fiesta 2017 work has commenced, the @ARadioFiesta is being used again for the January 14, 2017 Radio Fiesta.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encourage to follow this Facebook Page.

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SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: David Espinoza W5QS
W5qs@att.net
 210-287-5036

Amateur Radio License Classes

Plans to offer an Amateur Extra Course are being made.

For more information, contact:
 Bob Rodriguez K5AUW
 Instructor

SARC Meeting Dates for next 12 Months

October 12, 2016
 November 10, 2016
 December (None)
 January 5, 2017
 February 9, 2017
 March 9, 2017
 April 13, 2017
 May 11, 2017
 June 8, 2017
 July 13, 2017
 August 10, 2017
 September 14, 2017

Meetings are held at Grady's Barbeque,
 327 E. Nakoma Dr., San Antonio, TX
 78216 at 7:00 p. m.

Come early and eat with other members coming early.

License Testing Dates for 2016 and early 2017

October 22, 2016
 January 14, 2017
 February 25, 2017
 April 22, 2017
 June 22, 2017
 August 26, 2017

Times and locations along with required document information can be found on SARC's website.

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Field Day 2017

Setup: Friday, June 21, 2017
 Operations: Saturday, June 22, 2017
 & Sunday, June 23, 2017

Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

More information to follow, but hold these dates.

JOTA

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

This year's date is Oct 15, 2016. It will be held at the Texas Transportation Museum.
 Setup: 9:30 a. m. Operate: 10 a. m. -5 p. m.
 For more information, contact:
 Bob Rodriguez, K5AUW

Radio Fiesta 2017

January 14, 2017
 Schertz Civic Center
 More information to follow

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
 JC Smith N5RXS